

OCTOBER 2004

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OPEN HOUSE

VISIT YOUR LOCAL FIRE STATION

CELEBRATE NATIONAL FIRE Prevention Week on

Saturday, October 9, from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Activities,

demonstrations and tours will be featured along with free t-shirts and temporary tattoos for kids. Fire trucks, Police squad cars and Public Works equipment will also be on display. For more information, call 952-881-4062.

Station No.	Address
1	10 W. 95th St.
2	10601 Xerxes Ave. So.
3	2050 E. 86th St.
4	4201 W. 84th St.
5	10540 Bush Lake Rd.
6	8601 Lakeview Rd.

YOU'RE INVITED

FALL DANCE

THE SENIOR PROGRAM'S ANNUAL FALL dance will be held **Thursday, October 14, from 7 - 9 p.m.** at the Marian Knights of Columbus Hall, 1114 American Boulevard West. Cost is a \$3 donation, payable at the door. For more information, call 952-563-4948; 952-563-4957 V/TTY.

WANTED:

YOUR OLD CELL PHONE

TELECOM PIONEERS, A GROUP OF volunteers from Qwest, will refurbish your donated cell phone to make it 911 accessible for older adults and individuals with medical conditions or disabilities. Drop off cell phones in working order, including the wall chargers, at Creekside Community Center, 9801 Penn Avenue South. Cell phones will be distributed in mid-November.

Bloomington residents who do not own cell phones, and are ages 55 or older or have medical conditions or disabilities, are eligible to register for free cell phones refurbished to access 911 exclusively. Individuals who receive cell phones must attend a brief orientation and distribution meeting. For more information, call 952-563-4957 V/TTY.



THE GREAT OUTDOORS

VISITS TO AREA PARKS GROWING

WHETHER IT'S SWIMMING, BIKING, WALKING OR PICNICKING, PEOPLE are headed to the parks for their favorite pastime. According to a Metropolitan Council study, Twin Cities area's regional parks are more popular than ever. The study reports that visits to the 73 regional parks and trails in the seven metropolitan counties reached

an estimated 30.5 million in 2003, up 1.5 percent from the previous year and 28 percent from 1995.

Bloomington is home to the third most popular regional park reserve.

See left. Hyland/Bush/Anderson Lake Park Reserve attracted an estimated 773,000 visitors in 2003. Walking is the most popular activity, accounting for 35 percent of visits to regional parks.

For more on parks and trails, visit the City's Web site at www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keyword: Parks, keywords: Walking trails.



NEXT STOP: BLOOMINGTON

LIGHT RAIL RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER

FROM START TO FINISH THE TRACKS HAVE BEEN LAID, AND CREWS ARE NOW testing the trains, signals and communications as construction of the Hiawatha Light Rail Line moves into the home stretch. Two of the Twin Cities most popular destinations – Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport and the Mall of America – will be connected by year's end.

The \$715 million dollar light rail project broke ground in January 2001 and began operation between downtown Minneapolis and Fort Snelling at the end of June. Ridership has exceeded expectations, nearly doubling projections in July.

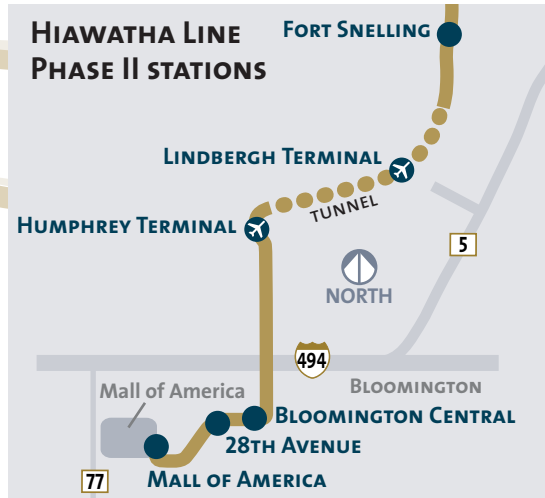
Bloomington Public Works Director Charles Honchell said there are benefits to having the new transit system in Bloomington. He said that light rail will provide an alternative transportation for residents to get to and from downtown Minneapolis for work, entertainment or to attend sporting events.

"Light rail transit can also stimulate development in the City's Airport South area," Honchell said. "New development will bring future tax revenues to Bloomington as well as create new jobs."

The Hiawatha Light Rail Project Office has predicted that corridor

development potential over the next 16 years could add 7,150 new housing units, more than 19 million square feet of new commercial development and more than 67,000 new jobs.

In fact, light rail has already spurred a new transit-oriented development along one of Bloomington's three light rail stations. The proposal by McGough Development includes 1,100 residential units, a 400-room hotel and conference center, office and retail uses, pedestrian and bicycle routes, and central park. The \$700 million project centers around Bloomington Central Station and is to be built in several phases over a seven-year period. Construction may begin this fall.



The Hiawatha Light Rail Line is the first step to potential alternative lines in the metropolitan area and beyond. Ultimately, the Hiawatha Line may link to a proposed commuter line that would extend as far as St. Cloud and to another light rail line to downtown St. Paul.

For more information, visit www.hiawatha-lrt.org.



Bloomington 28th Avenue Station

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
 1800 WEST OLD SHAKOPEE ROAD
 BLOOMINGTON MN 55431-3027

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EXPANDING SMOKE-FREE AREAS

WORKING TOWARD A FAIR SOLUTION

By Mayor Gene Winstead

WHEN FACED WITH A DIFFICULT DECISION, it is my job as Mayor to provide a forum where all interests are considered, all options are weighed and the solution is for the overall good of the community. Many cases in which people have opposing views are brought before the Council. The recent smoking ban ordinance is one of them.

There are several sides to the smoking issue. Health advocates are concerned for the health and well being of our citizens, workers and guests. The hospitality industry wants to accommodate all patrons and to make sure their businesses are not competitively disadvantaged. Then there are people's rights – those who feel they have the right to smoke and those who feel they have the right not to be exposed to secondhand smoke in public areas.

In February, the Council asked the Bloomington Advisory Board of Health (ABH) to study the issue of smoke-free work places including restaurants and bars. In June, the Council heard a proposal from the ABH to expand

smoke-free areas in places open to the public and workplaces.

At a public hearing in July, the Council adopted a broadened smoking ban ordinance, but it is not the first in the state. Duluth and Olmstead County already had bans in place. Many other cities and counties statewide, including the metropolitan area, currently have smoking ban ordinances on the table or have recently approved bans. Such ordinances are clearly a national trend. Across the country, 182 cities have laws that require restaurants to be smoke-free and 134 require that of bars.

The Council felt that we enacted a comprehensive workplace ordinance that took Bloomington businesses into consideration. We heard from the hospitality industry that they didn't want Bloomington to be the only city in the metropolitan area to ban smoking in the workplace. To ensure that businesses would not be at a competitive disadvantage, I worked with the mayors of Minneapolis and St. Paul for a target enforcement date, and put forth a

motion to enforce the no smoking ordinance in workplaces on September 1, 2004, and in establishments issued on-sale alcoholic beverage and charitable gambling licenses and permits on March 31, 2005. The later dates allowed surrounding communities with smoking bans under consideration to make their decisions and it also gave Bloomington businesses ample time to adjust.

Throughout U.S. history, on local, state and national levels, citizens have elected officials to weigh competing interests and make public policy decisions. While some may still have opposing views on the smoking issue, the Council worked hard to ensure that the decision was fair and in the best interest of the overall community.

To read the Bloomington Advisory Board of Health study and recommendations on smoke-free workplaces go to our Web site, www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keywords: Smoke free.

TRANSPORTATION

CONNECTING AMERICAN BOULEVARD BRIDGE NAMED FOR FORMER CITY ENGINEER

A GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY IN August signaled the beginning of construction on the bridge over I-35W in the American Boulevard corridor. The bridge is a critical link to the parallel arterial that will provide Bloomington residents with an alternative way to travel across the community. The route will also help ease congestion on I-494.

The bridge will be named the Lyle Berg Bridge, in honor of the retired Bloomington traffic and transportation engineer. For more than 36 years, Berg worked tirelessly to obtain right-of-way and roadway easements, and to protect the usefulness of the roadway system. His efforts resulted in an estimated savings of \$200 million to the City.



The Mayor, City Council, City staff and MnDOT representatives celebrated the start of construction of the bridge over I-35W.

According to Public Works Director Charles Honchell, Berg had the foresight 34 years ago to create the vision of an important ring route parallel to I-494.

"The bridge over I-35W is the key piece missing from the fulfillment of his vision," Honchell said. "It is fitting to honor his long and productive career by dedicating this bridge in his name."

The \$12.5 million bridge project is being constructed by Lunda Construction Company and is scheduled for completion in fall 2005. A federal

grant funds 80 percent of construction costs. The City of Bloomington and the Minnesota Department of Transportation also support the project.

To learn more about American Boulevard and other street construction projects, go to our Web site, www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keywords: Construction projects.



Mayor Gene Winstead announced the naming of the American Boulevard Bridge for Lyle Berg, longtime Bloomington traffic and transportation engineer, at a groundbreaking ceremony in August.



BRIEFING

Volume 12, Number 5

The *Briefing*, published bimonthly by the City of Bloomington, is mailed directly to our residents and businesses. Direct comments to Communications Administrator Diann Kirby, City of Bloomington, 1800 W. Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington MN 55431-3027; PH 952-563-8818; TTY 952-563-8740; FAX 952-563-8715; E-MAIL dkirby@ci.bloomington.mn.us. If you require Braille, larger print or computer disk, contact Diann Kirby.

Visit our Web site at www.ci.bloomington.mn.us

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The City of Bloomington does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status or status with regard to public assistance in employment or the provision of services. The City of Bloomington does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its programs or activities. Upon request, accommodation will be provided to allow individuals with disabilities to participate in all City of Bloomington services, programs and activities. The City has designated coordinators to facilitate compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), as required by Section 35.107 of the U.S. Department of Justice Regulations, and to coordinate compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as mandated by Section 8.53 of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Regulations. For information, contact the Human Services Division, City of Bloomington, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington MN 55431-3027; phone: 952-563-8700; TTY: 952-563-8740.

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON BRIEFING, OCTOBER 2004

Old Town Hall Update

CITY COUNCIL CONSIDERS OPTIONS

ONE OF THE FEW REMAINING PIECES OF architecture from Bloomington's 19th century, Old Town Hall was once the community's assembly place for public meetings, church services and social gatherings. While still in sound condition, attention is needed to preserve the 1892 building and identify its long-term uses.

Through meetings, petitions, e-mails and an online survey,

Bloomington residents have expressed overwhelming support for saving Old Town Hall. In January 2004, the City Council hired SMSQ Architects to conduct a reuse study for retaining Old Town Hall and to prepare a plan that would:

- Fit well with site constraints and the changing uses in the neighborhood.
- Be cost-effective for Bloomington taxpayers.



- Preserve Old Town Hall as a reminder of Bloomington's history.
- Establish the building as a citywide landmark and neighborhood-gathering place.

A NEW LIFE FOR OLD TOWN HALL

SMSQ Architects, a Northfield consulting architecture firm, has conducted more than a dozen studies of notable buildings and restored many more. After inspecting the structure, gathering community input and consulting with experts, SMSQ identified five potential reuses for Old Town Hall:

- Bloomington Historical Society Museum**
The Bloomington Historical Society plays an important role in gathering the stories and artifacts of the community. To meet the City Council's reuse goals, the organization would have to expand its programs, hours and funding sources.
- Youth Coffeehouse**
Bloomington's Youth Coffeehouse Initiative would be a good fit because of its location between two public high schools. However, the space needs of the program probably can't be met on this site because of limited parking.
- Destination Coffeehouse**
Dozens of interviewees and survey respondents suggested a destination coffeehouse that could be the 21st century equivalent of the original community gathering place. *See left.*
- Welcome Center**
Old Town Hall could become a welcome center dispensing community information and offering historical research and heritage tours.
- Mixed Use**
A mixed use would form a partnership that would include elements of the four uses described above.



The Smith-Douglas-More House in Eden Prairie is an example of a public-private partnership reusing a historic property. This 1877 farmhouse houses a coffee shop that partners with a local historical entity.

RESTORATION OF A CITY JEWEL

To pave the way for any reuse, SMSQ recommended that the City Council adopt the following three-step physical restoration process:

- 1 STABILIZATION**
Stabilize the Old Town Hall's exterior to prevent the loss of historic materials. Critical repairs must alleviate current structural problems.
Cost: \$150,000 to \$175,000.
- 2 RESTORATION**
Restore Old Town Hall's exterior to its 1930s appearance by reinstating the wood clapboard exterior and recreating the bell tower.
Cost: \$175,000 to \$225,000.
- 3 REUSE IMPROVEMENTS**
Enhance the building and surrounding area to prepare for a new use to include an accessible entrance addition, remodeled restrooms, site landscaping and exterior features.
Cost: \$425,000 to \$550,000.

The report recommends seeking proposals from tenants who would provide an active mix of uses attractive to youth, tourists and residents.

SMSQ's recommendations were presented to the City Council in September. The Council directed staff to proceed with stabilization and requested a definitive timeline so that restoration, reuse improvements and selection of building tenant(s) could be tied together and implemented in 2005.

For the complete report, visit our Web site at www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keywords: Old Town Hall.



This rendering shows how the building could look if fully restored. Exterior enhancements include adding an accessible entrance on the west side, replacing the bell tower and restoring the original clapboard siding as well as landscape restoration, parking expansion, outdoor seating and a patio.

2005 GENERAL FUND BUDGET

COUNCIL APPROVES PRELIMINARY BUDGET AND LEVY

THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVED A preliminary general operating fund budget of \$45,108,516, a 5.26 percent increase from the 2004 budget of \$42,853,808.

The Council also approved a preliminary levy of \$36,091,897 for 2005, a 5.75 percent increase from 2004. Again having to anticipate the loss of market value credit and local government aid from the state in 2005, the Council increased the levy to offset these losses. The budget-balancing burden will shift to municipalities across Minnesota, as the state, in order to help solve its ongoing budget problems, will again have to cut these aids.

The preliminary levy can be reduced, but not increased, before final adoption in December. The City has traditionally made a reduction between preliminary and final levy adoption. If the 2005 levy increase is approved, the average annual increase in the City's levy from 1994 - 2005 will be 2.96 percent.

Residential properties averaged an 8.75 percent increase in market value in 2004. The median home in Bloomington is valued at \$214,400, up \$18,600 from 2003. Cost for City services in 2005 will be under \$58 per month for the average Bloomington homeowner.

City staff uses a five-year planning model that considers both short-term and future needs of our community to recommend a preliminary levy. Note: The Truth in Taxation Hearing is Monday, December 6, at 6 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

NEW ON THE WEB SITE

BUILDING PERMIT STATUS

RESIDENTS AND CONTRACTORS CAN now go to the City's Web site to determine the status of their building permits. Just enter a valid permit number for a status report from the previous business day. Visit www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keywords: Permit status.

PENDING SPECIAL ASSESSMENT REPORT

The City's Web site also has a listing of special assessments adopted by the City Council, current to the previous business day. Visit www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keywords: Pending assessments.

Earth Action Heroes protect the earth. Whether it's saving energy or guarding Bloomington's precious natural resources, these individuals are making a difference. Here are your neighbors in action ...



EARTH ACTION HEROES THE BUCKTHORN BUSTERS, CUB SCOUT PACK 473

WHEN THE BOYS OF CUB SCOUT PACK 473 CAME TO DEN MOTHER Mary Johnson looking for ideas on a conservation project, she picked up the phone. Wanting to do something locally, Johnson called Public Works Project Coordinator Jean Buckley who asked if the troops were prepared to battle buckthorn, a species that has invaded Bloomington's parks and neighborhoods. Johnson said they were.

On an afternoon last May, the boys and some of their parents, outfitted in long-sleeved shirts and jeans, reported for duty at Girard Lake Park, 8401 France Avenue South, to receive their instructions.

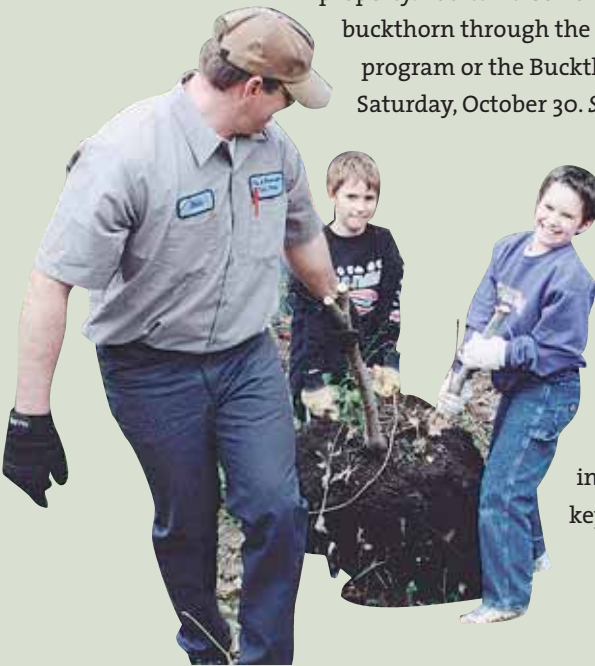
The activities began with a presentation from Park Maintenance's Dan Anderson who instructed the troops on how to identify and properly remove the noxious plant. Equipped with Weed Wrenches™ and loppers, the boys worked in teams. One boy lopped off the top of the buckthorn, while the other pulled it out of the ground. After about three hours of work, the Buckthorn Busters accomplished their mission and two dump truck loads of brush were hauled from the area.

For their efforts, the Cub Scouts of Pack 473 earned their conservation badges. Johnson said that they would love to continue with community service projects on a regular basis to show that the Cub Scouts are making a difference in the community. She said the buckthorn removal was a great overall project. Would the Cub Scouts concur?

"I can't believe I am saying this," said Cub Scout Jeremy Aldorfer. "But I want to go back out and pull more buckthorn."

Help stop the spread of buckthorn by removing it from your property. You can also volunteer to remove buckthorn through the City's Adopt-a-Park program or the Buckthorn Bust on Saturday, October 30. *See right.* Tool kits

for removing small plants are available for free rental. For more information, call 952-563-8751 or visit the City's Web site, www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keyword: Buckthorn.



VALUABLE RESOURCES

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES IMPROVE WATER QUALITY AND CLARITY

THE WETLANDS, PONDS AND LAKES IN BLOOMINGTON'S landscape are part of a constantly changing, dynamic system in which climate and the wetland's physical, chemical and biological characteristics affect water quality. Algae and vegetation grow when nutrients enter the water. Excessive plant growth reduces water clarity, often covering the entire surface with duckweed, watermeal and algae.

To improve overall water quality, it is increasingly important to reduce nutrients that reach wetlands. Common nutrient sources are lawn fertilizers, animal wastes, grass clippings and other yard wastes. All Bloomington residents can help prevent pollutants and excess nutrients from invading waterbodies by using phosphorus free fertilizers and by not sweeping leaves or grass clippings into the street. Those who live along the shorelines can also implement erosion control measures that include maintaining 10 to 20 feet strips of unmowed vegetation around wetlands and limiting their use of fertilizers.

The City currently treats some of Bloomington's ponds for weeds and algae, but these applications only treat the symptoms of high nutrient levels. The City has adopted a policy for protecting and treating its wetlands. To view the policy, visit www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keywords: Wetland policy.



NATURAL SOLUTIONS FOR FILTERING POLLUTANTS MANAGING STORMWATER THROUGH RAIN GARDENS

LIKE MANY CITY GOVERNMENTS ACROSS THE COUNTRY, Bloomington's approach to managing stormwater is evolving. New practices are moving from water detention ponds and storm sewers that carry stormwater into our lakes and streams to low-impact

development (LID) alternatives. One natural choice is an infiltration basin or rain garden.

Rain gardens are slightly sunken areas planted with native grasses and perennials that hold rainwater, letting it seep gradually into the ground. This natural process filters polluted runoff and recharges groundwater supply.

City Planner Bob Sharlin said that the City challenges developers to provide new LID alternatives along with traditional methods to manage stormwater.

"There is no one answer to stormwater management and it may take a variety of alternatives," Sharlin said. "The goal is to provide a better overall site plan and better water treatment methods. Size and scope are factors to consider when using LID techniques. Rain gardens with their natural amenities are a good choice, particularly for smaller sites."

For more information, visit the City's Web site, www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keywords: Rain garden.

BEAUTY FOLLOWS FUNCTION IN HOME LANDSCAPING CREATE YOUR OWN RAIN GARDEN

Homeowners can benefit from the practical beauty of a rain garden. Designed to hold rain and snow melt, these gardens can be as shallow as four to five inches or as deep as one to two feet and work in any kind of soil. Select plants that thrive in the sunny or shady conditions of your rain garden's location. To make your rain garden effective, choose a place next to a sidewalk, driveway or under a gutter.

BUST BUCKTHORN AT POND DAKOTA PARK VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO REMOVE INVADERS

BUCKTHORN GROWS QUICKLY, CHOKING OUT BENEFICIAL NATIVE trees, shrubs and wildflowers. Some wooded areas in Bloomington are infested with more than 90 percent invasive species.

Join Bloomington's Parks, Arts and Recreation (PARC) commissioners for a volunteer buckthorn bust. Chainsaws, handsaws and wrenching tools will be inching away at the state's most invasive, woody plant on **Saturday, October 30, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at Pond-Dakota Mission Park, 401 East 104th Street.**

If you would like to volunteer, meet at the Pond House for an identification and control method presentation. Wear sturdy shoes, jeans, long-sleeve shirts, eye protection and dress in layers. Some cutting and removal tools will be provided. Bring a bow saw, handsaw, lopping shears and hand shears if you have them. Label tools with your name and phone number.

The event is sponsored by Bloomington PARC and supported by the City's Parks and Recreation and Park Maintenance divisions. For more information, call 952-563-8877 or 952-941-6876.



CONTACT PARKS AND RECREATION AT 952-563-8877 FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THESE ACTIVITIES.

FALL SPORTS

TENNIS LESSONS

When: Thursdays, October 21 - December 2.
Times: *Beginner* 7:30-8:30 p.m.
Intermediate 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Where: 98th St. Northwest Athletic Club.
1001 W 98th St.
Cost: \$53.

MEN’S BASKETBALL LEAGUE

When: Starts November 30.
International C Tuesdays.
Industrial D Wednesdays.
Continental C Thursdays.
National D Sundays.
Where: Bloomington Armory,
3300 W. 98th St.
Cost: \$495 per team.
Deadline: November 5.

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL LEAGUE

When: Sunday afternoons, starts December 5.
Where: Bloomington Armory,
3300 W. 98th St.
Cost: \$495 per team.
Deadline: November 5.

SENIOR VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE

THE BORN AGAIN JOCKS VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE WELCOMES men, 55 years and over, with all levels of playing ability. For more information, call Dick Wortman at 952-888-1814.
When: Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays,
beginning October 11, 2004 - April, 2005.
Time: Warm-up 8:45 a.m.;
Games 9 a.m.
Where: Jefferson High School Activity Center,
102nd St. and France Ave. So.



HOWLIN’ GOOD TIME
ANNUAL HALLOWEEN PARTY

BLOOMINGTON’S ANNUAL CITYWIDE HALLOWEEN Party will take place on Sunday, October 31, from 6 to 8 p.m., at Northwestern Health Sciences University, West 84th Street and Penn Avenue South. Pre-schoolers through fourth graders, accompanied by an adult, are invited to this fun and safe event. Activities include “Trick-or-Treat Alley,” games, prizes, coloring contest awards and much more. Admission is free, but please bring a non-perishable food item for the V.E.A.P. Food Shelf. The event is sponsored by the City of Bloomington, Bloomington Breakfast Optimist Club and Northwestern Health Sciences University.

The coloring contest is available on the City Web site, www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keyword: Halloween.



AR&LE

THE ADAPTIVE Recreation and Learning Exchange offers fun programs and informative classes for individuals with disabilities living in the southern metropolitan area. Sponsored by the cities of Bloomington, Eden Prairie, Edina and Richfield, and the Community Education Adults with Disabilities programs in these communities, AR&LE produces a quarterly catalog that details all of its year-round activities. For more information, call Parks and Recreation.

GALAXY YOUTH CENTERS

GALAXY YOUTH CENTERS ARE LOCATED IN THREE middle schools: Oak Grove, 1300 West 106th Street; Olson, 4551 West 102nd Street; and Valley View, 8900 Portland Avenue.
The centers provide a safe, nurturing environment for youth, grades six to eight. Activities include music, foosball, ping-pong, billiards, video games, arts and crafts, service projects and sports. For more information, call 952-681-6107.



BLOOMINGTON CENTER FOR THE ARTS

BLOOMINGTON CENTER FOR THE ARTS IS LOCATED IN THE BLOOMINGTON CIVIC PLAZA AT THE CORNER OF WEST 98TH Street and Old Shakopee Road. This first-class facility houses eight organizations that comprise the Bloomington Fine Arts Council (BFAC). For more information, call the BFAC at 952-563-8567.

BLOOMINGTON ART CENTER (BAC)

Call 952-563-4777 for more information.

EXHIBITIONS

Hours: M - F 8 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Sa 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Su 1 p.m. - 10 p.m.

INEZ GREENBERG GALLERY

October 15 - November 26, Two Views featuring artists Richard Krogstad and William E. Murray. Opening reception will be Friday, October 15, from 6 - 8 p.m.

ATRIUM GALLERY

View these exhibits on second floor: Through November 12, When You’re on a Holiday with artist Darcy Lazinski



Farah; and November 17 - December 31, The Wood and I with artist Heidi Henderson.

The will power of a Lima Bean, oil on wood, by Heidi Henderson.

PERFORMANCE

Dracula: The Case of the Silver Scream will be performed Thursdays, October 14 - 28; Fridays, October 8 - 29; and Saturdays, October 9 - 30, 7:30 p.m.; and Sundays, October 10 and 31, 2 p.m. in the Schneider Theater. The Friday, October 15, performance is ASL interpreted. Tickets are \$12 adults; \$10 seniors/students/groups of 20 or more.

EVENTS

BAC’s annual fundraiser, Vampire Ball, will be held Friday, November 5, 6:30 p.m., at the Minnesota Valley Country Club, 6800 Auto Club Road. Enjoy dinner, silent and live auctions, a raffle, music and dancing. Tickets are \$50.

Magical Evening of Giving at Southdale Center, 6601 France Avenue South, Edina, on Sunday, November 21, 6:30 - 9:30 p.m., is a special shopping gala that supports nonprofit organizations including the BAC. Cost is \$5. Purchase tickets through the BAC and receive special offers and discounts.

THURSDAY MUSICAL

The 2004-2005 Thursday Morning Artist Series season begins Thursday, October 7, 10:30 a.m., in the Schneider Theater. Tickets are \$10. Season ticket membership, that includes 16 concerts, may be purchased for \$55; \$45 seniors, age 65 and older. For tickets, call 612-333-0313 or visit www.thursdaymusical.com.

CONTINENTAL BALLET

Continental Ballet has a performing company and a studio that offers beginner to advanced ballet, and ballroom and hip hop classes. For more information, call 952-563-8562.

THE NUTCRACKER

This holiday classic will be performed Friday - Saturday, December 10 - 11, and Friday, December 17, 7:30 p.m., and Saturday - Sunday, December 11 - 12, 3 p.m. Performances for schools and other organizations will be held Fridays, December 10 and 17, 10 a.m. Call for reservations.

BLOOMINGTON CIVIC THEATRE

Performances are held in the Schneider Theater. For tickets call 952-563-8575 or visit www.bloomingtoncivictheatre.org.

SWEENEY TODD

The Demon Barber of Fleet Street will leave you with a new feeling for pies and haircuts. Performances are Thursdays - Saturdays, 7:30 p.m., and Sundays, 2 p.m., from November 11 - December 5.

A CHORUS LINE

Drop in on a Broadway audition and see the heart and soul of the dancers “going” for the role of a lifetime. Performances are Thursdays - Saturdays, 7:30 p.m., and Sundays, 2 p.m., from January 27 - February 20.

SLOW
DOWN

EASING TRAFFIC ON RESIDENTIAL STREETS

PROGRAM SET IN MOTION

IN DECEMBER 2002, THE CITY COUNCIL directed Engineering staff and the Traffic and Transportation Advisory Commission to look at ways to address traffic volume and speed on residential streets. A policy and procedure manual was developed that explains how traffic-calming devices may be applied and how neighborhoods can participate in the program.

Traffic-calming measures may include the installation of speed tables or, in some areas, conversion of four-lane streets to three lanes. Last summer, a pilot program was implemented to test the impact of a speed table on a local residential street.

A temporary speed table was installed on Stanley Avenue, south of 84th Street. *See below.* Results at the test site showed that the 85th percentile speeds were reduced by approximately nine miles per hour and speeds increased as distance from the speed table increased. Before and after the speed table installation, similar speed patterns were observed 300 - 500 feet from the speed table.

An open house will be held on Monday, October 25, from 4:30 - 6:30 p.m., at Public Works, 1700 West 98th Street, for residents to learn more about the traffic-calming program and the 2005 application process. For more information, visit the City's Web, www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keywords: Traffic calming, or call Engineering at 952-563-4913.



The City is looking at ways to reduce speed and traffic on Bloomington streets. Traffic-calming measures may help. A temporary speed table, a long raised speed hump with a flat section in the middle and ramps on the ends, was installed on Stanley Avenue, south of 84th Street.

DO UNTO OTHERS – REMEMBER THAT REDUCING TRAFFIC SPEEDS IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD AND ON OTHER NEIGHBORHOOD STREETS BEGINS WITH YOU.

REAL AMERICAN HEROES AT HOME AND ABROAD

BLOOMINGTON FIREFIGHTER SAVES LIVES SERGEANT RYAN PETERSEN HONORED



Petersen was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal of Honor in Iraq.

RISKING YOUR LIFE FOR OTHERS OFTEN comes with the job when you're a firefighter or a Marine. With extreme enthusiasm and eagerness, Ryan Petersen, four-year member of the Bloomington Fire Department and Marine reservist, volunteered for both.

Petersen, currently on his second deployment to Iraq, was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal of Honor for his outstanding professionalism and team leadership during a mortar attack. Petersen aided Navy Seabees who were critically injured by quickly assessing the situation, administering medical care

and directing others to assist. His actions saved the lives of several Seabees, who would have succumbed to their injuries.

Petersen also saved the life of his captain by running into live fire to pick up the fallen comrade and transport him to an aide station 20 miles away. For this act of heroism, Petersen was nominated for the Bronze Star with "V" (for valor) device.

Ranked number one out of 24,000 Marine Reservists, Petersen was meritoriously promoted from Corporal to Sergeant in August.

ABOVE AND BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY FIRE DEPARTMENT RECEIVES PATRIOT AWARD

CHIEF ULIE SEAL AND THE BLOOMINGTON Fire Department were presented with the United States Marine Corps' Patriot Award in July for exceptional support of personnel in America's National Guard and Reserve Force. In his nomination letter, firefighter and Marine reservist Ryan Petersen said, "The department, and especially Chief Seal, had gone 'above and beyond' in their support for me while on military training and mobilizations."

Petersen stressed his appreciation for Chief Seal and all members of the

Fire Department for their encouraging e-mails, letters and phone calls, and support to his family while he is serving in Iraq.

"Firefighters from all six stations collected and sent donations not only to me, but to my entire unit," Petersen said. "They have also helped maintain my home while I am gone."

Petersen said the Bloomington Fire Department deserved the award for promoting "true brotherhood" for those serving in the Guard or Reserves.



Chief Ulie Seal and the Bloomington Fire Department accept the United States Marine Corps' Patriot Award.



Ryan Petersen will get a surprise when he returns from active duty this fall. His parents and Bloomington firefighters are remodeling Petersen's home, installing a new dormer, roof, vinyl siding and concrete patio. The firefighters are donating all of their work on the project in their spare time.

BLOOMINGTON YESTERDAY

HARVEST TIME – 1900

THIS THRESHING SCENE WAS photographed when farming was the main occupation for Bloomington's residents. The prevalence of farmland shaped the population – just 1,085 residents lived here at the turn of the twentieth century. Major roads in the community were extensions of north-south streets from Minneapolis needed to transport crops to the "Milling City." In the early 1900s, Bloomington was "a Sunday afternoon ride in the country" with a profusion of vegetable stands and private picnic grounds. Farms still dominated the landscape well into the 1940s – according to an agricultural census, there were more farms, cattle and horses in Bloomington in 1945 than in 1875.



Minnesota Historical Society

HEALTH NEWS

DON'T TAKE A CHANCE
GET YOUR FLU SHOT BEFORE THE SEASON STARTS



AN ALL-AGES FLU SHOT CLINIC WILL BE held at Creekside Community Center, 98th Street and Penn Avenue South, on Wednesday, October 27, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Influenza vaccinations, adult pneumococcal and adult tetanus shots are available. Cost is \$15 per shot. For more information, call Public Health at 952-563-8900.

HEALTH: IT'S IN YOUR HANDS
COMMUNITY HEALTH FAIR FOR ALL AGES

Saturday, October 23, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Bloomington Covenant Church,
102nd and Xerxes Avenue South.

FEATURES:

- Many **interactive displays** and exhibits from health businesses and organizations including Bloomington's Police and Fire departments.
- A **fun walk/run** at 9:15 a.m. (weather permitting).
- Public Health **flu shot clinic** from 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Cost is \$15 per shot.

- Information sessions:** Heart Healthy Living's Lorene Brown talks about women and heart disease; Monica Yugo presents on HIV and Hepatitis C and Financial Services Professional Tim Holgren discusses long-term care insurance.
- For more information, call 952-831-8339.



KNOW YOUR RISK FACTORS
OCTOBER IS BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

THINK YOU KNOW ALL THERE IS TO KNOW about breast cancer? Read on.

Only women get breast cancer.
False. Although rare, more than 1,300 men are diagnosed with breast cancer each year.

A tumor means cancer.
False. Tumors are the build-up of abnormal cells that form a mass of tissue. A tumor can be benign or malignant.

Small-breasted women cannot get breast cancer.
False. Size doesn't matter. Any woman with breasts can get breast cancer.

No one in my family has had it, so I'm not at risk.
False. Most women diagnosed with cancer have no risk factors other than being female and growing older.

Increasing age is the biggest single risk factor for breast cancer.

A mammogram is too expensive if you don't have insurance.
False. Through the Sage Screening Program, a woman who is uninsured or underinsured and falls within program eligibility guidelines can receive services.

For more information, call 952-922-2427. The Sage Screening Program is a collaborative effort between the Minnesota Department of Health, Bloomington Public Health and the private health care system.

Lead-up events to October's Breast Cancer Awareness Month included the **Relay for Life** in August and the **Breast Cancer 3-Day** walk event in September.

MIDDLE SCHOOL AND YOUR CHILD
SERIES PROVIDES INSIGHT

MIDDLE SCHOOL BRINGS SOCIAL, PHYSICAL and academic changes for students. Tri-City Partners for Healthy Youth and Communities and the Bloomington School District's Safe and Drug-free School Program is sponsoring a free, three-part series that will provide insight on a child's transition from elementary to middle school. Programs are held at Bloomington's middle schools from 7 - 8:30 p.m.

October 11	Valley View
Understanding Your Child in the Middle School World	
February 15	Olson
Misconceptions and Realities: Are Adolescent Sexual Norms Changing?	
Spring 2005	Oak Grove
Bullying and Harassment	

For more information, call Melissa Drews at 952-563-8901 or visit www.tricitypartners.org.

WE DO IT ALL FOR YOU
HUMAN SERVICES OFFERS VARIETY

For more information on activities and programs, call the Human Services Information Line at 952-563-4957 V/TTY.

SUPPORT GROUPS
WHEN YOU NEED A LITTLE ASSISTANCE

HUMAN SERVICES SUPPORTS AND assists a variety of support groups. The following groups meet at Creekside Community Center, 9801 Penn Avenue South.

Grandparent Connection is for grandparents and others who raise their relatives' kids. Childcare is provided with advance reservation. Lutheran Social Services is the co-sponsor of this group. For more information, call 612-879-5351.

Low Vision Support Group is for those with vision loss and their family members. The group is co-sponsored by Vision Loss Resources. For more information, call 612-871-2222.

Multiple Sclerosis Support Group helps people with multiple sclerosis as well as their family members and caregivers. The National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Minnesota Chapter co-sponsors this group. For information, call 952-563-4949.

For more information on other support groups, visit the City's Web site at www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keywords: Support groups.

FARE FOR ALL
GOOD FOOD, GREAT SAVINGS

FARE FOR ALL IS A NON-PROFIT FOOD distribution program that offers a way to save money on nutritious food in exchange for community service. There are no income guidelines to participate. The pre-paid cost for each food package is \$15 and two hours of volunteer service that can include babysitting for a neighbor, picking up mail, mowing grass or shoveling snow. Food packages consist of meats, fruits, vegetables, staples and packaged goods with a retail value of \$29 - \$37. For registration and distribution dates, call Alissa Smith at 952-563-8736.

JOB TRAINING
OPPORTUNITIES
DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH

HUMAN SERVICES CELEBRATES Disability Employment Awareness Month with activities and events in October. The goal of this month-long effort is to provide an opportunity for all people with disabilities to learn about job requirements, obtain information about job placement and training programs, hear about community advocacy programs and educate businesses about the benefits of hiring individuals with disabilities. For a listing of activities, visit the City's Web, www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keyword: DEAM.

TAKE CARE
HEALTH AND WELLNESS PROGRAMS

EXCEPT WHERE NOTED, CALL THE Human Services Information Line to schedule an appointment.



Blood pressure screening is the first Wednesday of each month, from 9:30 - 11 a.m. No appointment necessary.

Hearing screening is conducted the second Wednesday in February, April, June, August, October and December, from 1 - 2:45 p.m.

Health insurance counseling for individuals is available the third Tuesday of each month, from 9 - 11 a.m.

Foot care is available on Wednesdays, from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. To schedule an appointment, call Happy Feet at 763-560-5136.



CALLING ALL CRAFTERS
SHOW US YOUR HANDIWORK

GET CREATIVE WITH CRAFT ACTIVITIES AT CREEKSIDE Community Center, 9801 Penn Avenue South.

Crafts		
Woodshop	Weekdays	8 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. (except Wednesdays)
Woodcarving	Wednesdays	9 - 11 a.m.
Needlework	Thursdays	9:30 - 11:30 a.m.
Lapidary	Wed. and Thurs.	10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Ceramics	Tues. - Thurs.	9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Crafts	Tues. and Fri.	10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Boutique
Sell your handmade item or shop at the Creekside Boutique craft-consignment shop. Hours are weekdays, from 10 - 11:45 a.m. and 12:30 - 2:45 p.m., and Tuesdays, from 6 - 8 p.m.

STATE GENERAL ELECTION

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2004
POLLING SITES OPEN
7 A.M. TO 8 P.M.

ON THE BALLOT

- U. S. President and Vice President.
 - U. S. Representative - District 3.
 - State Representatives - Districts 40B, 41B, 63B.
 - State Judicial Offices.
 - County Commissioner, District 5.
- Verify your polling location before going to vote. *See map.* For more information, visit the City’s Web site at www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keyword: Voting, or call Voter Registration at 952-563-8729.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO VOTE?

- You may vote if you are:
- At least 18 years of age.
 - A U.S. citizen.
 - A Minnesota resident for at least 20 days before the election.
 - Not a convicted felon without your civil rights.
 - Not under guardianship of the person, where you have not retained the right to vote.
 - Not legally incompetent.

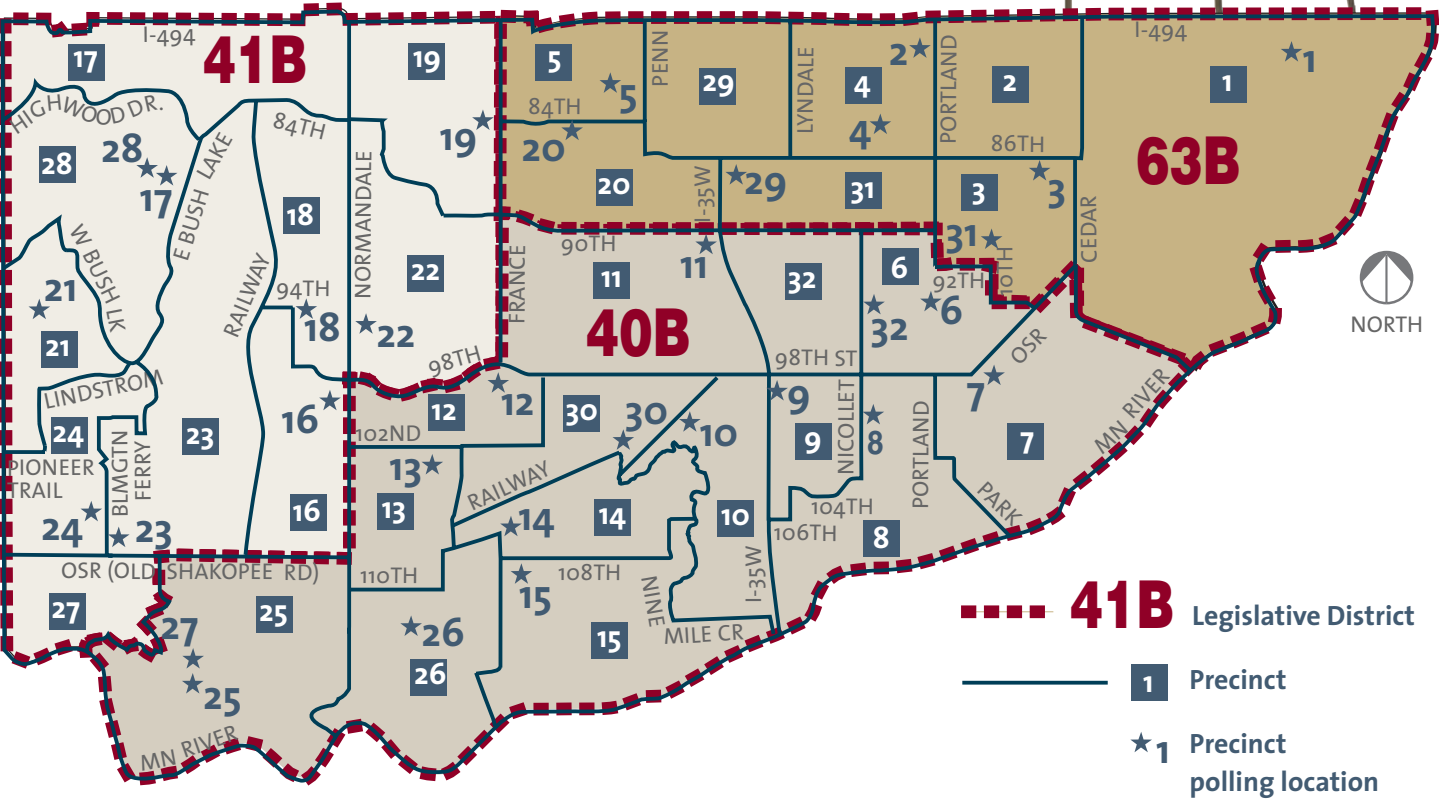
CAN I REGISTER TO VOTE ON ELECTION DAY?

- Yes. You will need one of these authorized proofs of residence:
- A current, valid Minnesota driver’s license, learner’s permit or identification card, or receipt for one that contains your address in the precinct.
 - A registered voter in the precinct where you live to vouch for your residence.
 - Valid registration at another address in the same precinct.
 - A Minnesota driver’s license, U.S. passport or U.S. military identification card that includes your name, and photo, *and* an original utility bill with your name and current address in the precinct, that has a due date within 30 days of Election Day.
 - A “Notice of Late Registration” card mailed to you by your registration office.
 - A student ID, registration or fee statement with your current address.

CAN I VOTE BY ABSENTEE BALLOT?

- You can vote by absentee ballot if you are unable to vote in person on Election Day because you are:
- Absent from the precinct.
 - Disabled or ill.
 - An election judge serving in another precinct.
 - Unable to go to the polling place due to a religious holiday or belief.
- Absentee ballot applications are available at City Hall or on the City’s Web site, keyword: Absentee.

BLOOMINGTON POLLING PLACES



Precinct/Polling location	Entrance/Parking
1 MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge 3815 East 80th Street	West entrance Visitor lot (W)
2 Portland Avenue Methodist Church 8000 Portland Avenue South	Main entrance West lot
3 Cedar Valley Church 8600 Bloomington Avenue	North entrance North lot
4 Emmaus Lutheran Church 8443 2nd Avenue South	East entrance East lot
5 Southtown Baptist Church 2600 West 82nd Street	Main entrance (E) East lot
6 Bloomington Lutheran Church 9350 Portland Avenue South	Main entrance South lot
7 Indian Mounds Elementary School 9801 - 11th Avenue South	Main entrance (N) Northwest lot
8 Riverside Reformed Church 10201 Nicollet Avenue South	North entrance East lot
9 Nativity of Mary School 9901 East Bloomington Freeway	NE sch. entrance NE lot
10 St. Luke’s Lutheran Church 1701 West Old Shakopee Road	NE entrance North lot
11 Bloomington Christian Church 9000 West Bloomington Freeway	South entrance South lot
12 Crosspoint Church 9801 France Avenue South	Main entrance (E) East lot
13 Hubert Olson Elementary School 4501 West 102nd Street	Main entr. (NW) West lot – disabled use front drive
14 Mount Hope Lutheran Church 3601 West Old Shakopee Road	Main entrance (S) South lot
15 Westwood Elementary School 3701 West 108th Street	Main entrance (N) West lot
16 Normandale Hylands United Methodist Church 9920 Normandale Boulevard South	NE entrance (Left doors) North lot

Precinct/Polling location	Entrance/Parking
17 Peace Lutheran Church 8600 East Bush Lake Road	Main entrance North lot
18 The Church of St. Edward’s 9401 Nesbitt Avenue South	SW entrance – upper level, SW lot
19 St. Stephen Lutheran Church 8400 France Avenue South	Main entrance (W) West lot
20 Washburn Elementary School 8401 Xerxes Avenue South	Main entrance NE lot
21 Sunrise Park Shelter 9401 Bloomington Ferry Road	Only entrance (N) North lot
22 Normandale Hills Elem. School 9501 Toledo Avenue South	Main entrance West lot
23 Community of the Cross Lutheran Church 10701 Bloomington Ferry Road	Main entrance (N) North lot
24 Bloomington Lutheran School 10600 Bloomington Ferry Road	Main entrance (S) S lot - disabled use East side
25 Bethany Missionary Church 6900 Auto Club Road	West entrance W and N lots
26 Southwood Center 4901 West 112th Street	West entrance West lot
27 Bethany Missionary Gymnasium 6900 Auto Club Road	Main entrance South lot
28 Bloomington Fire Station #6 8601 Lakeview Road	Main entrance N. lot and Street
29 Christ the King Lutheran Church 8600 Fremont Avenue South	SW entrance Southwest lot
30 Oak Grove Presbyterian Church 2200 West Old Shakopee Road	Main entrance Northeast lot
31 St. Bonaventure Catholic Church 901 East 90th Street (Social Hall)	Main entrance East lot
32 Oxboro Evangelical Free Church 9431 Nicollet Avenue South	North entrance North lot



SERVING YOU BETTER ADDITIONS AND CHANGES

- TO IMPROVE SERVICE TO the voters of Bloomington, the City implemented the following in 2003:
- Increased precinct polling locations from 26 to 32.
 - Reduced the number of voters assigned to a polling place.
 - Relocated some polling places to better accommodate voting.
 - Increased the number of election judges assigned to each precinct.
- Remember to verify your polling place before going to the polls.** For more information, call the City Clerk’s office at 952-563-8729.

VOTING ASSISTANCE

- VOTING ASSISTANCE IS AVAILABLE AT THE polling places to accommodate persons with disabilities. Ask the election judges for assistance if you need:
- Help in reading or marking your ballot.
 - Use of a magnifying device.
 - Use of a chair at the booth.
 - Curbside voting.
- All polling places are accessible, with clearly marked doors and parking spaces.